

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)      A reactor system suitable for carrying out exothermic chemical reactions comprising one or more common reactant feed lines fed into two or more single unit operated reactors which are to be operated as one single unit, each reactor comprising a multitubular fixed bed catalyst arrangement, the reactors having one or more common product discharge lines, wherein each reactor comprises a separated, individual reactor and in which each of the reactors comprises an indirect heat exchange system, which heat exchange systems are jointly operated to cool the reactors as if they were a single unit.
2. (Previously Presented)      The reactor system of claim 1 comprising between 3 and 8 single unit operated reactors.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented)      The reactor system of claims 1 comprising one common gas reactant feed line.
6. (Previously Presented)      The reactor system of claims 1 comprising one common gas product discharge line.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently Amended)      A process for the preparation of hydrocarbons by reaction of carbon monoxide and hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst at elevated temperature and pressure, wherein the process is performed in a reactor system comprising one or more common reactant feed lines

fed into two or more single unit operated reactors which are operated as one single unit, each reactor comprising a multitubular fixed bed catalyst arrangement, the reactors having one or more common product discharge lines, wherein each reactor comprises a separated, individual reactor and in which each of the reactors comprises an indirect heat exchange system, which heat exchange systems are jointly operated to cool the reactors as if they were a single unit.

10. (Previously Presented) The reactor system of claim 1 comprising four single unit operated reactors.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The reactor system of claim [[4]]1, wherein the heat exchange system comprises a thermosiphon system.

13. (Previously Presented) The reactor system of claim 1 comprising one common liquid product discharge line.

14. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 9, wherein the catalyst comprises a cobalt catalyst.